

## Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06

SIL-01 EUR-25 SS-20 NSC-10 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 076500

R 090600Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL SYDNEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4971

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SYDNEY 2576

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, AS

SUBJ: NEW SOUTH WALES GENERAL ELECTION

REF: SYDNEY 2557

SUMMARY: LABOR COUNCIL DENOUNCES PREMIER ASKIN'S PROPOSED ANTI-STRIKE EMERGENCY LEGISLATION WHILE TRYING TO COPE WITH COMMUNIST INSPIRED BUILDERS LABORERS STRIKE WHICH THREATENS TO BECOME NATIONAL.

1. FOLLOWING A SERIES OF MEETINGS, THE NEW SOUTH WALES LABOR COUNCIL LAST NIGHT ISSUED A STATEMENT WARNING THAT IF PREMIER ASKIN ATTEMPTS TO GO AHEAD WITH HIS PROMISE TO LEGISLATE EMERGENCY POWERS TO PROTECT PUBLIC INTERESTS IN THE VENT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES, THIS WILL PROVOKE COMBINED MASSIVE LABOR ACTION FROM THROUGHOUT THE STATE INCLUDING ALL SECTORS OF INDUSTRY AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE. THIS REACTION WAS PREDICTABLE. HOWEVER, THE FINAL LINES ON WHICH THE ISSUE WILL BE FOUGHT OUT IN THE ELECTION ARE NOT REPEAT NOT YET CLEAR. THERE IS STILL CONFUSION ON ASKIN'S OWN MEANING, BUT ALP NATURALLY IS ASSUMING THE WORST SINCE THIS PROVIDES A BETTER TARGET. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS STILL WIDELY AGREED THAT LIBERAL/COUNTRY PARTY  
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COALITION GOVERNMENT WILL BE RETURNED TO OFFICE WITH

AN INCREASED MAJORITY.

2. THE EMERGENCY POWERS QUESTION MAY BE FURTHER  
DRAMATIZED NEXT WEEK BY THE SPREADING INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE  
INVOLVING THE NSW BRANCH OF THE BUILDERS LABORERS  
FEDERATION AND THE EMPLOYERS. IN RECENT MONTHS THIS  
UNION TOTALLY CONTROLLED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF  
AUSTRALIA HAS CAPTURED INCREASING ATTENTION, MUCH OF IT  
FAVORABLE, BY EXPLOITING THE ECOLOGY ISSUE. THE UNION  
HAS REFUSED TO WORK ON NUMEROUS CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS  
WHICH ALLEGEDLY IMPERIL EITHER NATURAL  
OR TRADITIONAL TREASURES OF SYDNEY. HAVING REFUSED TO  
WORK FOR SEVERAL DAYS, THEY RETURNED TO WORK ON  
SELECTED PROJECTS TWO DAYS AGO. THE EMPLOYERS, HOWEVER,  
REFUSED TO AGREE THAT THE UNION HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE  
SELECTIVELY WHICH PROJECTS IT WILL WORK AND WHICH IT WILL  
NOT WORK. AS A RESULT THE WORKERS WERE DENIED ENTRY AND  
THIS HAS BEEN LABELED A "LOCK OUT". 18 BUILDERS LABORERS  
WERE ARRESTED FOR TRESPASSING.

3. UNFORTUNATELY BUT PREDICTABLY THE "LORV OUT" ISSUE  
HAS RALLIED GREAT SUPPORT TO THE BUILDERS LABORERS UNION  
WHICH PREVIOUSLY HAD BEEN ISOLATED BOTH FROM THE  
MODERATE NSW LABOR COUNCIL AND FROM ITS OWN FEDERAL  
HEADQUARTERS WHICH IS ALIGNED WITH THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF  
AUSTRALIA (PRO-MOSCOW AND ANTI-CPA). NSW LABOR  
COUNCIL IS IN THE DIFFICULT POSITION TODAY OF HAVING TO OPPOSE  
PREMIER ASKIN'S CAMPAIGN PROMISE OF EMERGENCY LEGISLATION  
AND OF HAVING TO OPPOSE A "LOCK OUT", WHILE AT THE SAME  
TIME TRYING TO RE-ISOLATE THE LOCAL COMMUNIST DOMINATED  
BUILDERS LABORERS FEDERATION. MEANWHILE THE FEDERAL  
HEADQUARTERS OF THE BUILDERS LABORERS UNION HAS INDICATED  
THAT IF THE STRIKE IS NOT SETTLED OVER THE WEEKEND, IT  
WILL BECOME NATIONWIDE EFFECTIVE NEXT TUESDAY MIDNIGHT.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW SOUTH WALES GENERAL ELECTION  
**TAGS:** PINT, AS  
**To:** STATE  
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